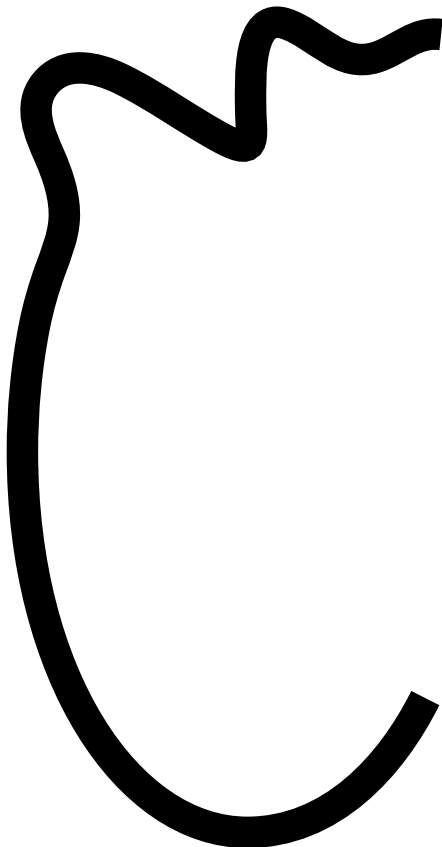


# Open Call Hidden (Hi)stories



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**The Creative Industries Fund NL invites designers and collectives to submit a proposal for an international collaborative project aimed at uncovering hidden stories through design. The emphasis lies on stories in the (local) context of the Dutch colonial past and its postcolonial present. The open call is part of a knowledge exchange trajectory in collaboration with the Nieuwe Instituut.**

For this open call, the Fund is looking for designers who can open up *hidden (hi)stories* and render these, and issues relating to them, visible, tangible and discussable. Project proposals start from a design question and can address local communities or places, but they can also relate to a diasporic relationship with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Consider, for example, obscured or erased sites, rituals, legacies or silenced and othered perspectives. Project proposals can focus on untold stories but can also question “canonical” knowledge. Which (hi)stories have, up to now, been considered to be important and what are their effects on design, architecture and digital culture, or on conversations about this past and present in education, to give an example? What do these (hi)stories mean for urban dynamics and spatial policy choices, for the (mis)use of (material) resources, or for the (in)accessibility of archives and technologies?

Various questions can be central: Which legacies, places and perspectives have so far been neglected or remained hidden? What does it mean to unearth or reveal if there is no tangible documentation or if the possibilities to do so are limited? How can other means of narration and representation be used to pass on these *hidden (hi)stories*? How should Western conceptions around collecting, archiving, and keeping be seen in the light of these histories? What does narrating, representing and collecting ‘otherwise’ mean for communities to which these *hidden (hi)stories* relate? And, in doing so, which stories do we save for future generations? Cross-overs between material and immaterial legacies, and the role of lived heritage as repositories of knowledge in a globalized reality can also play a role in the proposed projects.

### **collaboration with the Nieuwe Instituut**

Within this open call, the Creative Industries Fund and the Nieuwe Instituut are facilitating a working/learning trajectory and will organize a series of sessions for participating projects under the umbrella of *Hidden (Hi)stories*. This offers designers and cultural institutions the possibility, parallel to implementing their projects, to work together on this open call’s theme. Ongoing critical, urgent and open discussions from various geographical contexts will be held and there will be space for exchange (with relevant networks). In particular, we aim to link up with the Nieuwe Instituut’s *Tool Shed* of the long-term *Collecting Otherwise* project. The *Tool Shed* is a pluriform, open repository for alternative instruments (“tools”) and ways of acquiring, classifying and presenting legacies “otherwise”.

## what phases does this open call have?

The Open Call Hidden (Hi)stories consists of two phases:

### Collaborations between the Netherlands and abroad

For international collaborations between designers and/or cultural organizations in one (or more) country(ies) outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands applies:

#### phase 1: Writing grant

- Closing date: submissions can be made up to and including 4 September 2023;
- Number of grants: a maximum of 12 proposals of € 3,000;
- Start date: immediately after the announcement on 6 October 2023;
- Period: a maximum of 4 weeks after the start date up to and including 3 November 2023.

#### phase 2: Complete collaboration project

*Only the applicants selected in phase 1 can submit a full project application in phase 2.*

- Closing date: submissions can be made up to and including 3 November 2023;
- Number of grants: a maximum of 12 proposals of no more than € 40,000;
- Announcement: December 2023;
- Start date: within 1 month of the grant being awarded;
- Period: a maximum of 12 months after the start date.

### Collaborations within the Kingdom of the Netherlands

For collaborations between designers and/or cultural organizations in one (or more) country(ies) in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom applies:

#### phase 1: Writing grant

- Closing date: submissions can be made up to and including 4 September 2023;
- Number of grants: a maximum of 3 proposals of € 3,000;
- Start date: immediately after the announcement on 6 October 2023;
- Period: a maximum of 4 weeks after the start date up to and including 3 November 2023.

#### phase 2: Complete collaboration project

*Only the applicants selected in phase 1 can submit a full project application in phase 2.*

- Closing date: submissions can be made up to and including 3 November 2023;
- Number of grants: a maximum of 3 proposals of no more than € 40,000;
- Announcement: December 2023;
- Start date: within 1 month of the grant being awarded;
- Period: a maximum of 12 months after the start date.

## who is this open call intended for?

Proposals can be submitted by designers or cultural organizations based in the Kingdom of the Netherlands that are active in the fields of design, architecture and/or digital culture. They must enter into an international collaboration with designers and/or cultural organizations in one or more countries outside of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In addition, proposals can be submitted by designers or cultural organizations, active in the fields of design, architecture and/or digital culture, that collaborate with one (or more) local partner(s) in one (or more) country(ies) between the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. This specifically involves the countries of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten and the three special municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Parties included in the project can include underrepresented populations/communities or their representatives, social initiatives, social justice activists, but also researchers/academics from the social,

economic, political, cultural and spatial domains.

Clearly indicate in your application which partners you are involving and what their contributions are to the proposed project. We find it important that the plan makes clear how and why partners and other parties are being involved in the project and how the collaboration will be realised. The collaboration and exchange between the project partner(s) based in the Kingdom Netherlands and the collaboration partner(s) must be on an equitable basis. This should also be expressed in the division of the budget.

## which projects are eligible for a grant?

The open call is aimed at projects that examine, exchange, document and make visible or findable unknown and untold stories in the (local) context of the Dutch colonial past and its postcolonial present.

- Applications can be submitted for projects in which designers or cultural organizations that are active in the field of design, architecture and/or digital culture enter into a collaboration with one or more local partners in one or more countries outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- In addition, proposals can be submitted by designers or cultural organizations, active in the fields of design, architecture and/or digital culture, that collaborate with one (or more) local partner(s) in one (or more) country(ies) between the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. This specifically involves the countries of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten and the three special municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

Project proposals can be submitted in various forms, ranging from artistic research or research by design to implementing an intervention, a presentation, a popular initiative or a programme. Any approach is possible, as long as there is a link to the open call's theme, a clear connection with one or more of the design fields/disciplines and the results will be made accessible to the public.

We ask the parties who are involved to take a clear stance on the open call's theme and to substantiate the selected topic and (research) question, also in relation to the local and/or regional context in which the project is situated. The perspective(s) of the local partner(s) should also be embedded in the project proposal.

*Please note:*

- A condition for processing an application is that the project canvas should clearly demonstrate a link with one or more of the disciplines served by the Fund.
- Applications for projects in countries and regions for which, at the time of submission, negative travel advice is in force (colour coded red and/or orange), cannot be processed.

## what is assessed?

Grant applications will be submitted for assessment to at least three external independent advisors. This committee assesses the extent to which the proposal is consistent objective(s) and set up and the extent to which they align with this call. The advisors base their assessment on the following criteria:

### phase 1 assessment criteria:

- **chosen topic and question:**  
The formulation of the problem statement, and the (research) question ensuing from it, will be assessed in relation to the open call's theme. The advisory committee looks at the rationale for the chosen topic and question, also in relation to the local

and/or regional context. The approach to the research question is approached and connection to the design disciplines will be examined. Which question is central to the project? Why has this question and approach been chosen? What is important is that the application provides confidence that the chosen topic and question can be developed into a full collaborative project proposal.

- **positioning:**

The committee assesses how the application and the formulated (research) question are positioned in relation to existing developments and knowledge within and beyond the field and/or discipline. Does the proposal build on or question these developments and knowledge? The way the project relates to local social developments and issues is also assessed. How is the project positioning translated into a design question/approach? The advisory committee also looks at how the applicant and partners position themselves in relation to the theme and the context in which the planned project is to take place.

- **collaboration:**

The committee assesses the rationale for the planned collaboration(s) and whether the proposed forms of collaboration provide confidence that a relevant contribution can be made to the theme with a full project application. The committee looks at the proposed role and expertise of the involved parties and how they align with the proposed approach to the chosen topic and question. Which partners will collaborate on, or be involved in, the project? Why these partners and which roles do they play in the proposed project? How will the collaboration take place? Where relevant, the committee will also look at the rationale for the local context(s) in which the proposed project will take place. The committee will also look at the partner's motivation for participating in the intended collaboration.

*Please note:* You will only be invited to submit a full collaborative project application in phase 2 if your application is granted in phase 1.

#### **phase 2 assessment criteria:**

- the relevance of the selected topic and question within the open call's theme;
- the quality of the proposal, such as the elaboration of objective(s), the approach, the budget and the finance plan;
- the positioning with regard to the open call's theme, existing developments within and beyond the field that are relevant for the selected topic and the context within which the project takes place;
- the set-up of the collaboration(s), such as the complementary expertise and roles of the collaborating parties and the way in which the collaboration takes place; ;
- Method of sharing knowledge of (interim) results.

## **application submission**

Applications for writing grants (phase 1) can be submitted **up to and including 4 September 2023** via the Fund's online application environment. Select the 'Open Call' grant scheme and then the 'Open Call Hidden (Hi)stories' round.

The application should consist of:

- 1** a fully completed application form;
- 2** a fully completed project canvas;
- 3** at least one signed letter of intent from a project partner (no more than 2 pages);
- 4** CV's of the applicant(s) and key collaboration partners.

For phase 1 you draw up a concise application using the project canvas, which you submit together with a letter of intent from one (or more) collaborating partner(s).

The conditions and grounds for rejection as drawn up in articles 4 and 5 of the Creative Industries Fund NL [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) apply to this open call. This does not include article 4.d as the international collaboration, and the interest in that regard, must be as equitable as possible.

It is important that applicants position themselves as professional designers, makers, design agency or cultural organisation within the creative industry and are registered in the Dutch Chamber of Commerce or one of the Chambers of Commerce that fall within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Further applicable conditions:

- Within this open call, grants cannot be awarded to or for institutions that have a structural grant relationship with the Dutch Government (Basic Infrastructure, BIS) or that have received a grant from the Fund under the [Four-Year Institutional Grant Scheme for the Creative Industry 2021-2024](#).
- No grants will be awarded within this open call to applicants who have already received a grant as part of the Mondriaan Fund's Open Call Slavery Memorial Year.
- A condition for processing an application is that it contains a letter of intent from one (or more) collaborating partners.

Only proposals that meet the above conditions can be presented to the advisory committee for a substantive assessment. The applications will be assessed by an external advisory committee based on the criteria formulated in this open call. A maximum of 12 applications will be selected and will receive € 3,000 to draw up a full project application for phase 2 together with the international partner(s). And a maximum of 3 applications will be selected and will receive € 3,000 to draw up a full project application for phase 2 together with partner(s) from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The proposals that are selected for the writing grant will be announced by no later than 6 October 2023.

Only applicants whose proposal is selected in phase 1 can submit a project application in phase 2 for a grant of a maximum of € 40,000. These applications will also be assessed by an external advisory committee. The proposals that will be supported in the second phase will be announced by no later than 15 December 2023.

Please note:

- Make sure you create an account for the online application environment in good time. It takes one working day to activate a new account.
- Travel expenses can only be submitted for trips to green or yellow areas in countries outside the Netherlands. Always check the [travel advice of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) in advance and take local measures into account in your plan.
- You cannot present a draft of your project plan to the Fund, but you can ask us for advice on preparing your application up to 21 August 2023.

## selection procedure

The assessment of the proposals within this open call is similar to a tender - this means that, within the available budget, a number of proposals will be selected over other ones. Only positively assessed projects will be supported. The submitted proposals will be processed and assessed on the basis of the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) and in particular on the extent to which the application meets the open call's criteria. The committee issues its advice on each application to the Fund's board.

The Fund will seek advice, if necessary, about the collaboration between Dutch and local parties within the proposed collaboration from the Dutch embassies and/or consulates in the countries concerned.

## acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of selection

No later than one week after the closing date, you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt via the Fund's online application environment. The selection will be announced in the first week of October 2023 in the online application environment. The selected applicants will subsequently be invited by the Fund to submit a complete project application in phase 2.

## contact

For questions about the open call and the procedure, please contact: Mireille de Koning and/or Roxanne da Graça via [international@stimuleringsfonds.nl](mailto:international@stimuleringsfonds.nl) or call +31(0)10-4361600.

## context

This open call is part of the Internationalization Programme of the Creative Industries Fund NL supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Within the policy framework of the International Cultural Policy 2021-2024 and with financing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Creative Industries Fund NL has implemented a four-year programme entitled *Inclusive Cities and Societies through Design*. Two thematic open calls have been set up in 2023 within this programme. With these open calls, the Fund focuses on supporting and/or strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange within the countries/regions that fall under the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation programme and with the cultural sector in the Netherlands and on supporting local projects.

The expansion of the Open Call Hidden (Hi)stories to support collaborative projects within the Caribbean part of the Kingdom (specific: the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten and the three special municipalities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) is made possible from the free program house of the Creative Industries Fund NL.